

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-35 were previously pending in the application. Claim 7 is canceled; claims 1-5, 8-9, 12, 14-15, 17-19, and 34-35 are amended; and new claims 36-42 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-42 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Support for new claims 36-40 is found, for example, in Fig. 6. Support for new claims 41-42 is found in original claims 5-6, respectively.

In paragraph 2 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 17-22, and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aldebert. In paragraph 3, the Examiner objected to claims 5-6, 8-16, and 23-33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the now-pending claims are allowable over Aldebert.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features from original (now canceled) claim 7 and to clarify that the programmable device is connected in parallel to the two or more memory devices. The Applicant submits that Aldebert does not teach or even suggest such a combination of features.

In rejecting original claims 1 and 7, the Examiner cited Fig. 1 and column 1, lines 66-67, of Aldebert. Fig. 1 shows a single memory device (i.e., serial PROM 10) connected to the lead programmable device (i.e., FPGA 11) of a daisy-chain configuration of programmable devices. Nevertheless, in column 1, lines 66-67, Aldebert suggests that the Master Serial Mode of Fig. 1 "employs one or more serial PROMs which are accessed serially for address and data" (emphasis added). On column 2, lines 8-10, Aldebert teaches that "The Serial PROM 10 can be made of a single module or several cascaded modules" (emphasis added).

According to the 19th edition of Newton's Telecom Dictionary, the term "cascade" means "to connect the output of a device into the input of another device, which then may in turn be connected to another device." Similarly, Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines "cascade" as "something arranged in a series or in a succession of stages so that each stage derives from or acts upon the product of the preceding."

In light of these definitions and the explicit teachings in Aldebert, the Applicant submits that Aldebert does not teach or even suggest a configuration in which a programmable device is connected in parallel to two or more memory devices, where the memory devices transmit different portions of configuration data to the programmable device without transmitting the configuration data via a controller connected between the memory devices and the programmable device.

For all these reasons, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 1 is allowable over Aldebert. For similar reasons, the Applicant submits that currently amended claims 17-19 and 34-35 are also allowable over Aldebert. Since claims 2-6, 8-16, 20-33, and 36-40 depend variously from claims 1, 17-19, and 34, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable over Aldebert. The Applicant submits therefore that the rejections of claims under Sections 102(b) have been overcome.


New claim 41 is equivalent to previously pending claim 5 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent

form, the Applicant submits that new claim 41 is allowable. Since new claim 42 depends from claim 41, it is further submitted that claim 42 is also allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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